

UDOT workshops to help businesses deal with I-15 expansion

Transportation » Two-year project will have major impact on traffic

By Mike Gorrell

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The first in a series of workshops to help Utah County businesses prepare employees and customers to cope with the expansion of Interstate 15 will take place from 8-10 a.m. Tuesday at the Provo Health and Justice Building, 151 S. University Ave., Suite 1600.

Utah Department of Transportation officials are teaming with local chambers of commerce on the TravelWise sessions, designed to reduce confusion surrounding the \$1.7 billion expansion of the I-15 corridor from Lehi to Spanish Fork, a project expected to last until December of 2012.

Two other meetings are scheduled for the following week:

- April 6 from 8-10 a.m. at the Spanish Fork Fair Grounds, High Chaparral Room, 475 S. Main St., for Spanish Fork and Springville-area businesses; and
- April 7 from 8-10 a.m. at American Fork City Hall, 31 No. Church St., for businesses in American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Lindon.

"There will be significant delays at various times throughout the project especially during the first five months of construction," said Dal Hawks, project director of what UDOT is calling I-15 CORE.

"We need everyone's cooperation, especially those in the business community, to help minimize inconvenience and keep traffic moving."

The project will add two additional freeway lanes the length of Utah Valley, extends the Express Lane from University Parkway in Orem to Spanish Fork and rebuilds and reconfigures 10 freeway intersections. UDOT also will replace or restore 55 bridges.

In the TravelWise workshops, UDOT will advise business leaders about strategies to cope with the construction. These include telecommuting, flexible work hours and carpooling. UDOT also will provide information on communication tools that will be available to help businesses stay informed about periodic changes in the focus of construction efforts and closure information, said UDOT spokeswoman Heather Barnum.

Additional information about I-15 CORE is available at udot.utah.gov/i15core.

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Interstate 15 workshops

Utah Department of Transportation workshops on the I-15 expansion project will be held:

- Tuesday in Provo
- April 6 in Spanish Fork
- April 7 in American Fork

All start at 8 a.m. Additional information about the project is available at udot.utah.gov/i15core